

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SY-05 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /087 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA:HBCUSHING:LGS

APPROVED BY D/HA:JLCARLIN

EA/IMS:WSHEPPARD (SUBS)

D/HA:SCLOWMAN

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O 261908Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASES

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 3537, (B) SINGAPORE 3514, (C) STATE
183403, (D) STATE 180673, (E) HONG KONG 8690, (F) STATE
178281(G) SINGAPORE 3565

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AS POST AWARE FROM RECENT EXCHANGES WASHINGTON-LONDON-GENEVA-HONG KONG RESPECTING REFUGEES ABOARD BURMESE SHIP AVA, USG POLICY IS TO INTERNATIONALIZE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND PROTECT PRINCIPLE OF ASYLUM. ALTHOUGH OUR REFUSAL TO GIVE COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT REFUGEES IN US AS CONDITION OF THEIR BEING PERMITTED ASHORE MIGHT BE MISTAKEN AS NARROW AND LEGALISTIC, WE CANNOT TAKE ACTIONS NOW THAT WILL INEVITABLY WEAKEN AN ESSENTIAL LONG TERM HUMANITARIAN POSITION. WE FORESEE A CONTINUOUS EXODUS FROM INDOCHINA OVER COMING MONTHS, ESPECIALLY FROM VIETNAM, AND OVER THE SAME TIME A REDUCTION IN AVAILABLE SPACES IN THE US PAROLE PROGRAM. THUS WE MUST LEND EVERY EFFORT TO STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S CONCERN AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE REFUGEE PROGRAM BEFORE POLITICAL ASYLUM IN ASIA BECOMES MORIBUND, AND THE PRACTICE REPORTED IN REFTEL B BECOMES EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD.

2. SINGAPORE HAS OBVIOUSLY ALREADY EVIDENCED ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN EITHER ASYLUM FOR OR RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE, AND INsofar AS IT REFUSES EVEN TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF THOSE WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF SHIPWRECK AS WELL AS REFUGEES, THERE SEEMS LITTLE TO HOPE FOR FROM THAT QUARTER. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE THE PRINCIPLE BY COMMITTING THE US TO ADMIT SPECIFIC REFUGEES AS A CONDITION FOR THEIR BEING PERMITTED ASHORE. AS LONG AS NUMBERS AVAILABLE IN EPP, WE WILL EXAMINE APPLICATIONS OF ALL REFUGEES AGAINST PRIORITIES AND CRITERIA REFTEL F, INCLUDING THOSE REFTEL A, BUT FROM PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, VERIFICATION, CLEARANCE, AND APPROVAL IS TIME CONSUMING AND MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS; IN SOME FEW CASES GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY MAY EXIST, AND THUS PRIOR GUARANTEES IMPOSSIBLE AS A MATTER OF LAW AND POLICY.

3. POST SHOULD URGE GOS TO ALLOW REFUGEES ON CAPE ERIMA TO COME ASHORE UNDER UNHCR REP PROTECTION, AND ASSURE THAT WE WILL EXAMINE APPLICANTS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE FOR ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER US. AT SAME TIME YOU SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF FIRST ASYLUM. IF AS YOUR REPORTS IN RECENTS MONTHS LEAD US TO EXPECT, THE SHIP WILL BE (IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN) FORCED TO LEAVE WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFUGEES ABOARD, THEN PLEASE INFORM US OF NEXT PORT OF CALL. MEANWHILE DEPT ENGAGED IN EFFORT TO HAVE UNHCR MAKE REGION WIDE APPEAL AS RECOMMENDED REFTEL G. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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